

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~COUNTRY Poland and Polish Occupied Germany REPORT NO. 25X1ATOPIC Polish Troops near Katowice and Hundsfield

25X1

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 10 November 1950

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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Katowice (Q 51/Y 57)

1. Prior to April 1950 a Polish unit of about 1,500 men was located in the barracks about one km northeast of the Oheim Mine in the southwestern section of the city. (1) Many officers and NCOs were observed with the unit. The EM were between 20 and 25; they wore earthbrown uniforms with epaulets of the same color and round service caps or caps (called "rogatka", in Polish) with a white eagle attached to them. A Soviet star was under the eagle. On their dress uniforms NCOs wore triangular ruby-colored collar patches with serrated silver facings.
2. Soviet rifles with attached bayonets, sub-machine guns with magazines and curved box magazines, and mortars, the barrel and ground plate of which were carried separately, were observed with the unit. A convoy leaving the barracks had about 15 three-axle GMC trucks. (2)
3. The unit would train in small detachments in a training area located in the direction of Kochlowice (Q 51/Y 57). After the spring of 1949 night exercises were frequently held in the wooded area round the Oheim Mine.
4. Soviet officers sometimes entered the barracks. They wore earthbrown uniforms with wide golden epaulets with narrow red longitudinal stripes. (3)
5. A Soviet headquarters, conspicuous by a signboard with Russian lettering and a red flag with hammer and sickle, was about 50 meters north of the Ring prior to April 1950. This headquarters was called "kommandatura". Soviet officers and a Soviet guard armed with a sub-machine gun were seen there. An increased number of Soviet officers and soldiers were noticed in the city after October 1949. Entire troop units were, however, not observed.
6. In March 1949, a section of the internees camp at the Oheim Mine was occupied by about 200 young Polish soldiers. These soldiers worked underground in the mine in all three shifts. They were also marched out for exercises in the direction of Kochlowice almost every day. (4)

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Hundsfeld

7. Soviet troops were observed near Hundsfeld (P 52/C 52) on 21 April 1950. About 100 young soldiers wearing Soviet uniforms and armed with **sub-machine guns were marching on the road to Breslau (P 52/C 41)**. Five tanks without track-supporting rollers and with an 80-mm gun without muzzle brake were also moving in the direction of Breslau. (5)

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☐ Comments.

- (1) From the location of the barracks it is inferred that the 6th KBW Brigade, the only infantry unit in Katowice, was concerned.
- (2) The trucks also indicate that this unit belongs to the KBW. No motorized army infantry regiments have been observed.
- (3) The color of the epaulets indicates that these officers may have been NVD officers.
- (4) A labor unit of the army has been stationed in this camp since October 1949. See ☐ It was previously believed to be an SP unit. However, it was learned that special army labor detachments are employed in the Upper Silesian mining district. These detachments are composed of ethnic Germans and other elements who are considered politically and nationally unreliable.
- (5) According to previous information some Soviet units are located in Breslau; among other installations, the barracks in Breslau-Carlowitz are occupied by Soviets. See ☐ The soldiers and tanks which were observed probably belonged to these units.

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